resource poor small-time farmers to enable them to face the challenges of comparative advantage in world trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) A list of Centrally Sponsored Schemes under implementation by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation in Maharashtra for increasing the agricultural production and productivity is as follows:-

i. Macro Management Scheme
ii. Technology Mission on Cotton
iii. Oilseed Production Programme (OPP)
iv. National Pulses Development Project (NPDP)
v. Accelerated Maize Development Programme (AMDP)

(b) The Tenth Five Year Plan approved by National Development Council has given major thrust on basic rural infrastructure for agriculture which *inter-alia* include creation and strengthening of storage/cold storage infrastructure, construction of rural godowns, strengthening of marketing, processing and value addition infrastructure, development of minor irrigation, rainwater harvesting and conservation for the development of rainfed areas through watershed approach. The Government is implementing Kisan Credit Card Scheme, National Agricultural Insurance Scheme, Minimum Support Price Scheme and market Intervention Scheme for protecting the interest of all categories of farmers including small and marginal farmers.

Potato Research Centres

578. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Potato Research Centres established in the country;

(b) the details of major production centres of potato;

(c) the steps taken to improve the seed of potato; and

(d) the action taken to check deterioration in various varieties of potato?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Central Potato Research Institute (CPRI) is located at Shimla. It has seven Regional Stations located in different States of the country. They are at Modipuram (UP), Jalandhar (Punjab), Gwalior (MP), Patna (Bihar), Kufri/Fagu (HP), Ooty (Tamil Nadu) and Shillong (Meghalaya). Under All India Coordinated Research Project, there are 20 centres. Five centres under ICAR and fifteen centres under SAUs.

(b) There are major Potato production centers in ten States of the country, *viz.* Punjab, Haryana, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttaranchal, Bihar, Tamil Nadu and in Gujarat.

(c) Initially the basic (diseases free) seed is produced through meristem tip-culture and stem cuttings from disease free plants, then growing them in polyhouse under aphid free conditions. This disease free seed is planted in the fields. This crop is tested by ELISA and thorough rouging is done. Breeders seed so produced is supplied to State Government departments for further multiplication as Foundation I, II and III seed for supply to farmers for growing certified seeds.

(d) The crop is tested for virus detection techniques like ELISA, ISEM and NASH. Roughing is taken up throughout the growth period to avoid disease/pest appearance and prevent deterioration of seed and mixture of potato varieties. At CPRI healthy stocks of varieties are grown through nucleus to breeders seed stages by ways of better management and taking all precautions in seed production.

Subsidized items

579. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the items on which subsidies are given to farmers by the Central Government and State Governments separately;

(b) whether this subsidy is taken into account while fixing the Minimum Support Price to be paid to farmers of their produce; and

(c) the number of small farmers who are benefited out of these schemes?